

City of Miami Beach Office of Mayor Matti H. Bower

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MIAMI BEACH MAYOR MATTI H. BOWER TO CREATE GAY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TO ENSURE STRONG FUTURE FOR LOCAL GAY BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES

(Miami Beach, FI) – Miami Beach Mayor Matti H. Bower's first initiative of 2008 is to create a Gay Business Development Ad Hoc Committee to address a variety of issues critical to the future and welfare of Miami Beach's gay business and residential communities.

The mission of the committee will be to bring recommendations to the Mayor and City Commission on how to enhance the gay identity of Miami Beach, and how to make it more attractive and supportive of gay businesses, residents and tourists.

While the City's reputation for tolerance and progressive attitudes and its sizeable gay business/residential community have ensured that Miami Beach remains a top-ranked destination for gay travelers, the Ad Hoc committee should seek to identify what opportunities are being missed by evaluating successful strategies of other cities and by seeking local community input.

"Gay Pride Week is one of the opportunities being missed and should be specifically evaluated by this committee," said Bower, who has tapped local businessman Babak Movahedi to chair the committee.

A former elected official from Washington, D.C., Movahedi serves on the National Advisory Board and Gay and Lesbian Leadership Council of the Democratic National Committee. "We are fortunate to have someone with Babak's leadership qualities to chair this committee," said Bower, who will name the other members later this month.

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